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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

MANAGEMENT AND OBJECTS

OF THE

PEABODY INSTITUTE

BY

N. H. MORISON,

PROVOST OF THE INSTITUTE.

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PEABODY INSTITUTE

OF THE

CITY OF BALTIMORE.

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AN EXPLANATION.

During the month of February, 1871, two articles appeared in the "*Saturday Night*," a weekly paper published in Baltimore, severely criticizing the management of the Peabody Institute by its trustees and their chief executive officer. In reply to these criticisms, and with the desire to correct if possible the wide-spread misapprehensions of the public with regard to the true objects and conditions of the Peabody endowment, several articles, which are here substantially reproduced, were published in successive numbers of the same paper. The material points made by the critic were the following:

1. That the title of provost was ill-chosen, and most unfortunate as suggestive of arbitrary proceedings during the recent war.

2. That the provost is not the librarian, and performs, for the public, none of the duties of a librarian, while he exercises supreme authority in making and enforcing harsh and senseless rules.

3. That the exclusion of the public from unrestricted access to the books on the shelves is arbitrary, unnecessary, and altogether unusual in such institutions.

4. That no catalogue has been printed, or is likely to be for an indefinite and unknown period of time.

5. That the attendants in the reading room are wanting in courtesy, and disobliging to visitors.

6. That the reading room is rendered solemn, gloomy, and disagreeable by the silence which prevails there, the

attendant answering loud questions in a low "whisper which is at once a reply and a caution."

7. That gentlemen are not allowed to occupy, even in rainy days, that part of the room which is reserved for ladies, and are often warned by the attendant to leave the ladies' seats.

8. That the entire management of the Institute has been "halting," "blundering," "wanting in common sense," and not what "Mr. Peabody designed" it to be.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INSTITUTE.

I assume, Mr. Editor, that you have made your severe attack on me and the Institute from erroneous or imperfect information; and, while I am extremely unwilling to enter into the public discussion of a subject which must necessarily be more or less personal, I cannot resist the impulse to correct some of the statements made in the two articles which you have recently published—articles which do me great injustice, and the trustees of this Institute great wrong.

You object to the title of "provost" as an odious one, and evidently confound the word with another having the same spelling but quite a different pronunciation, and a military signification. In the great universities of England and Scotland, provost—pronounced prov'-ust—is the title generally given to the heads of colleges; and it is also given to the head-master of Eton and some of the other great schools. In this city it has long been a familiar term as the title recently borne by Mr. Kennedy, and now by Mr. Wallis, as the presiding officer of the University of Maryland. When the committee proposed, and the trustees sanctioned, this title for the new executive officer of the Institute, I presume they thought they

were following good English authorities while they adopted a name quite familiar to our own intelligent citizens.

The trustees are the supreme authority here, and are responsible for what they permit as well as for what they direct. I have seen no indications of their unwillingness to assume this responsibility. They make or sanction *all rules*, and appoint the officers who are to enforce them.

I am simply the executive officer of the Institute. I have no authority and no disposition to make rules for the library, or any other department of the Institute. My power and my duty end when I have *enforced* the rules prescribed, and have recommended such alterations in them as experience suggests. The rules for the government of each department are made by the committee in charge, and are sanctioned by the Board of Trustees. The rules for the government of the library were made when the library was first opened. Only two changes have been made in them—one raising the age for admission to the use of the library from 12 to 16 years, and the other giving to ladies the exclusive use of two sets of tables. Experience had taught the need of both of these changes; and the rule regarding age is the same as the one adopted in the Library of Congress, and in the Boston Public Library.

The rules which govern our library were all drawn from those of similar institutions elsewhere; for the regulations adopted in such libraries are *essentially the same all over the world*. The trustees wisely declined to repeat an experiment which had been tried and abandoned everywhere, of leaving cases containing rare and costly books open to the visits of the public without restriction. It is a law as firmly established as any law in physics, and by the same process of experiment and induction, that books thus exposed will be abused. Some of them will be stolen, some scribbled over, some soiled and mutilated; while fine engravings will be soiled, or torn, or cut out, or so bent in folding as to render them almost useless. It is a melancholy fact that many respectable people, and especially

many collectors of books, cannot resist the temptation to get possession of a rare volume, when the opportunity offers. Ask our former librarian his experience in this regard, and he may possibly inform you where he supposes some of our missing volumes now are. Ask the Historical Society where its manuscript copy of Father White's Journal is to be found. Ask Mr. Magruder, of the State Library, at Annapolis, where many of the early records of Maryland are, which once adorned his alcoves. Ask the officers of our own Mercantile Library, which does not profess to hold precious documents to any great extent, what their experience is. If ordinary libraries, having *restricted* membership, suffer in this way, how will it be in a *free* library like ours, with its many rare and costly books?

Now, I assert, without the fear of contradiction, that this restriction in visiting the cases is found in every great library in this country and in Europe; and I believe that the committee in charge acted wisely when they adopted this rule of exclusion.

Our library contains books of great cost, and some of great rarity. Books are occasionally coming into it which have cost our agents five or six years of careful and systematic hunting before a copy could be found. Orders are now out for books which our London agent informs me he has advertised in every part of the United Kingdom without finding a copy, and ten years may elapse before one is secured. Shall books like these be exposed to sure destruction or loss to gratify the curiosity of casual visitors? And is the rule a bad one which guards such treasures—even at some inconvenience to the public—for the use of real students, who, in this library, have never been and never will be denied access to them? The loss of a few books in a popular library is of small importance, because they can easily, and at a small cost, be replaced, or others of equal value can be substituted for them; but such is not the case with a learned library which this is to be. The Strasburg Library, recently destroyed, can no more be replaced than the Alexandrian Library, or the Arab libraries of Spain, or the Aztic libraries of Mexico.

You are totally mistaken as to the facility of access to the alcoves granted to visitors at the Harvard Library. I have known Mr. Sibley for more than thirty years, and was a schoolmate of his chief assistant, Dr. Abbot, undoubtedly the most learned librarian in this country. As a student in college, I had the free use of that library, and have been in the habit of visiting it almost every year since. Across the entrance to every alcove is a bar, on which is a notice in large letters of "No Admittance!" and no longer ago than last week an article appeared in the *Harvard Advocate*, written by an under-graduate, complaining of the rule which shuts visitors from these alcoves. The inexperience of youth may properly excuse such a complaint; but I have never yet seen a *real* student who was not willing to subject himself to some formalities—for that is all it amounts to in any library—for the sake of guarding, for his own use, treasures so important and precious. In the Harvard Library too, one person has exclusive charge of the engravings, and no one else is allowed even to *touch* them. He always turns them over for visitors. The Boston Athenæum is owned by a private corporation, and its library is used only by its members; but even here an attendant must accompany the reader to its alcoves.

The Boston Public Library, the most popular and probably the most useful library in the world, unless the Manchester Free Library, an institution of precisely the same character, surpasses it in usefulness, divides its immense collections between two halls. The books in one hall, consisting, on the 1st of January, 1871, of 32,000 volumes, circulate among the entire population of the city; while the books in the other hall, consisting of 135,000 volumes, are kept within the walls of the building for reference. To the circulating portion of the library the public has no access whatever, and only when accompanied by an attendant can a visitor enter the alcoves of the reference library. This library is supported, like the public schools, by a city tax; and a few days ago, Mr. Windsor, the superintendent, who spent

several hours in examining our arrangements, informed me that last year $70,000 were devoted to it, or $25,000 more than the income of the whole Peabody fund during the same period. If any where in the world, one would expect to find in this library freedom of access to the books. As an officer of a kindred institution, and to gain useful information I have repeatedly visited its alcoves, but never without an attendant.

The Astor Library follows the same rule. The Library of Congress is far more stringent than we are in excluding visitors from its alcoves. Mr. Spofford, the librarian, informed me, a few weeks since, that he *never* permitted any reader to enter them. Even the Mercantile Library of Pittsburgh, which is a popular institution, has recently been compelled to adopt this rule, and the public complain of it as they do here; but the directors announce their determination to adhere to the plan of exclusion, though it has cost them some subscriptions. The same rule is followed by the British Museum, the Manchester Free Library, the Imperial Library in Paris, the Royal Library in Berlin, in fact by all the great libraries the world over.

This rule, then, of the Peabody Library, is not a peculiar or an arbitrary one, working unusual hardships; but it is necessary and proper as all experience shows, and I am informed by some of the directors of the Mercantile Library in this city, that it will be adopted by them as soon as they can get into a building which will render it possible. Our librarian, Mr. Uhler, has full authority to allow any one, who wants to investigate any special subject, to go to the cases with an attendant, and scarcely a day passes without persons availing themselves of this privilege. This, of course, takes up valuable time, and mere idlers, who want to see the books without having any especial object in view, should not thus occupy the officers of the Institute; but no one who has expressed a wish to see our collection on any given subject has ever, to my knowledge, been denied.

You complain that we have no printed catalogue. We have, in the reading-room, two complete card catalogues

of the library, one of authors and one of subjects; and a card catalogue is the only one possible, or that is of any use, while a library is rapidly forming. A printed catalogue would become obsolete in a few months. A card catalogue was the only one used in the Boston Public Library until its collection had reached 50,000 volumes; and it is the only one now used in the Harvard Library, with 123,000 volumes. Every spare moment of our librarian's time is now occupied in preparing a catalogue for printing, which will open to the public as complete a knowledge of our collection of books as it is possible to present in such a work. We intend to make this catalogue a real help to our readers, and an honor to the Institute and to the city. You speak lightly of this work, as of a task that could be finished in a day. Have you any adequate idea of the amount of labor which it involves? Let me inform you that it has already occupied Mr. Uhler and his assistants one year, and it will probably take another year to complete it. When finished, it will form a royal octavo volume of from 1,600 to 2,000 closely printed pages in double columns. About 60,000 titles have already been written out for it. Dr. Abbot and his assistants have been engaged for some six years on the Harvard catalogue, with no prospect of finishing it in the immediate future. We are advancing as fast in the preparation of our catalogue, as a proper regard for thoroughness and accuracy will permit.

You complain that the attendant in the reading-room frequently cautions persons against handling the books on his table by saying, "it is against the rules." That attendant is engaged, during his spare moments, on this catalogue and kindred work; and a derangement of the books which he is analyzing and recording is a serious interruption to an occupation requiring such cautious accuracy I think it would be difficult to devise a more inoffensive method of informing people that they are interrupting his work.

I have been thus full in discussing the rule which excludes persons from the book cases, because I have repeatedly heard the complaint before from persons who have no knowledge of the management or the needs of great libraries. I have never heard it from a student accustomed to use them.

You complain of the gloomy silence of our reading room? It is an unusually cheerful room, and certainly the students who occupy it cannot agree with you in thinking it buried in "funeral gloom;" for they have frequently expressed to me their gratification at the quiet which enables them to pursue their studies without interruption. You should not forget, that this is a library of reference, whose books must be studied in the reading room or not at all. The reader who is disturbed in his investigations there, cannot adjourn to his own study, because he cannot take the books he wants with him. Allow conversation and noise in that room, and the whole collection of books becomes as useless as they would be in another planet. A recent writer in a foreign review, complains of the Imperial Library in Paris, because, there being no carpet on the floor, the footfall of visitors and attendants seriously interrupts the studies of the readers. And are we to disregard the great objects for which this library was created, and annul the evident purpose of its founder, by surrendering its quiet reading room to the foolish gossip of such men and women as may choose to make it a trysting place? To state such a proposition is to refute it.

And yet such a calamity once threatened us, and it required skillful management to avert the danger; but we have succeeded in doing so, and our readers are now enjoying the benefit of a place of quiet, studious repose. I do not think Mr. Peabody's spirit will be greatly disquieted by knowing this.

Is it unreasonable that two sets of tables and one window in the reading room should be devoted to the separate use of ladies? These tables occupy less than one-fourth of the room. All ladies, but timid ones especially, do not like to

enter public rooms filled with men, where no fixed seats are provided for them. Their request for separate accommodations was reasonable ; and, when I brought the subject before the committee, it was immediately granted. During the day, the ladies are almost as constant in their attendance at the library as the gentlemen. If gentlemen, in the absence of the ladies, are allowed to occupy their seats, a lady on entering the room will be subjected to the same embarrassment she had before separate seats were assigned to the ladies. She must either take her seat among the men or retire altogether. On each of the tables devoted to ladies, is a card with the legend, "Exclusively for ladies," printed in large letters. This notice is sufficient for most gentlemen ; but it seems, from the complaint, that there are some who need, in addition, to be personally reminded that they are in the wrong place.

I know that the trustees desire to accommodate the public to the utmost, and to furnish to students every reasonable facility for pursuing their studies. I have accordingly urged upon the attention of all the officers of the Institute, the importance of showing the utmost courtesy to all visitors, the reasonable and the unreasonable ; and also the importance of enforcing the rules prescribed by the trustees. I have every reason to believe that both of these injunctions have been substantially complied with. It is not impossible that a page in the reading room may have occasionally assumed an authority not conferred upon him, or have spoken to visitors in a tone or with a positiveness that was irritating ; but such conduct might occur anywhere. It has never been defended or approved here, and, when known, it will not be permitted. Any complaint, to the librarian or to me, of disrespect on the part of attendants, will meet with prompt attention and correction.

It is true, as you say, that I am not the librarian, but the general executive officer of the Institute. In that capacity, it is my duty, under the direction of the trustees and the committees, to attend to its business affairs, and

to superintend all its departments—its library, its lectures, its academy of music, and its gallery of art, when that shall be established. If the public has any interest in knowing a matter of so little importance, I certainly do not object to saying that all my time, not employed in the general supervision of the Institute, is devoted to selecting books for this library—a work which I entered upon with the determined purpose of making the library an institution which the city shall some day be proud of possessing. This task of selecting books is not an unimportant or an easy one. I have spent upon it nearly four years of the severest labor I have ever performed. Before any purchases are made, all lists of books have to be submitted to the Library Committee for their examination and approval. I am responsible for the selection of the books placed on these lists, and the library will show with what degree of intelligence and faithfulness the Committee and myself have performed our duties in these purchases. I am not ashamed of the work performed, nor afraid to have it examined by any competent authority.

We cannot create scholars or readers to use our library; but we can make a collection of books which all scholars will appreciate, when they shall appear among us, as they surely will do some day; or we can make a collection which will merely duplicate the volumes which every gentleman has on his own shelves, can borrow from a friend, or buy in a neighboring shop. It is quite apparent that there will be some difference in the value of these two collections, and in the difficulty of forming them.

It would be easy to pile in books by the car load from the catalogues of publishers and dealers, which always flood such establishments as this; but it is quite a different thing to select with care every volume, putting none on the lists except with a full knowledge of its value. Not convinced that all knowledge is centered in one individual, however remarkable his attainments, I have sought aid in these selections from every available source, and from men of the most varied pursuits. It is evident that the man, whose

position requires him to know the past history of a science or art, and to keep fully up with its present advancement, can render invaluable services in the selection of books for a library, by indicating the best authorities, living and dead, in his own department of knowledge. Though such men are usually very busy with their own affairs, my friendly relations with many of them enabled me to secure their aid. So Harvard, and Yale, and Brown, and Lehigh, the University of Virginia, the University of South Carolina, and the University of Michigan, were laid under contribution for the benefit of this library. Lovering, and Gould, and Torrey, and Lowell, and Dawson of Montreal, Greene, Marsh, Silliman, Lesly, Mayer, Smith, De Vere, Le Conte, Evans, Donaldson, Johnson, Latrobe, Rogers, and our own Uhler, furnished lists, each naming the most important books, new and old, in his own department of knowledge. My own labor on the selections has been incessant, and Mr. Uhler has been equally devoted; and we have worked together in entire harmony, he in science and I in literature, as our tastes have directed us. The first great aim of the trustees has been to keep the library fully abreast of the times, to make its books fairly represent all the great activities and discoveries of the day, in science, literature, history, art, antiquities, philosophy, politics, and the industrial arts. The latest and best works on all these subjects are first purchased, and what remains of our means is devoted to the literature of the past.

I have been thus particular in describing the mode in which our books have been selected, in order to show how faithful the trustees have been to their trust. Quietly, without pause, but without parade or the blowing of trumpets, amidst much ignorant caviling and vituperation, they have pursued their work of collecting a library which should furnish to the student the best books in all languages, and in all departments of human knowledge. They have spared no trouble, labor, nor expense to secure this result. I doubt whether there is a library in the land in which the same pains have been taken to secure the best, and to avoid use-

less books. In purchasing this library, they have already spent more than $130,000, and they have determined that, for all future time, $10,000 shall every year be devoted to its increase. They have thrown its doors wide open to all comers, with only such proper restrictions as are usual in all such libraries—restrictions which are absolutely necessary to guard the property, and to secure to the reader a place of undisturbed repose for his studies. I know of no kindred library in which the invitation to come and partake of its treasured stores is so full, free, and generous, or accompanied with so few restrictions. The Boston Public Library limits its privileges, with some exceptions, to the citizens of Boston ; and even these, if not known to the librarian, must give references to those who are known ; but the Peabody Library asks no questions of citizenship or country. Its reader needs no introduction to its officers, no form of admission whatever. Whether citizen or stranger, obscure or distinguished, known or unknown, he has but to call for the books, one or many, which he needs, and they will be furnished. The very day on which a writer in one of our morning papers recently asserted that our books are locked up and useless, three persons expressed to me the great satisfaction they had enjoyed that day in consulting these closed and useless volumes. One of the persons was a distinguished geologist from a neighboring city, whose name is widely known in the country, the second was a rising young physicist of our own city, and the third was an intelligent lady in search of monumental marbles. I mention the fact as a remarkable coincidence, none of these persons having seen the flippant sneer in the paper.

It is a total mistake to suppose that this library is not used. More than 2,500 different individuals used it last year, and the number is greater now. The number of persons making learned investigations has greatly increased within a year. It might, indeed, be used much more extensively than it is, had we more students or literary and scientific men among us. But it is doing precisely the work which Mr. Peabody intended that it should do, and in the

precise manner in which he prescribed that it should be done. Students find among our books and periodicals the freshest and most important works, and frequently express to me, and more frequently to Mr. Uhler, their satisfaction in unmeasured terms. The courts of law have several times sent for our books to elucidate points of importance in cases before them—books which they could find no where else in the city. A map in our possession is likely to have an important influence in settling the oyster boundary between our own State and Virginia. A professor in a distant college, who had examined our collection in Anglo-Saxon, Early English, and English Literature, recently sent for a list of these books as the most complete he had seen in the country. He wished to have it as a guide in the selections he was making for his own college. We thus pay a portion of the debt which we owe for outside aid received in making our own selections.

Mr. Uhler, under my general supervision, has charge of all the details of the library, the investigation of editions and prices, the copying of lists, the reception and recording of books, and their arrangement on the shelves, the carding, the cataloguing, and the supplying of books to readers. He has performed *all* his duties with intelligence and zeal, and his duties to the public with more than courtesy and kindness; for he has spent much time in directing the researches of students, and pointing out the proper sources of information. For his part in the conduct of the library he deserves the highest credit, and I am glad his services are appreciated. But his subordinates deserve equal credit in their spheres. Coming into more immediate contact with the public, they have shown great patience and tact in meeting the peculiarities, the unreasonable dispositions and tempers, which they occasionally encounter. I think it would be difficult to find young men more uniformly attentive and courteous than they.

I regret to have been compelled by your attack to say so much of my own personal doings in this statement; for, in the conduct of a great institution like this, persons are of small importance compared with results.

"I feel a deep interest in the success of this noble ornament of your city, and trust, that, as its plan is more and more clearly developed to your people, it may enlist, not only the favor of the cultivated classes, (which it has to a great extent already,) but also the attachment and pride of the great mass of the citizens. They may be sure, that when intelligent strangers speak of Baltimore, they are apt to mention as its first attraction, not Druid Hill Park or the Washington Monument, beautiful as they are, but the Peabody Institute, with its valuable library, and its elegant appointments."

So wrote to me a few months since one of Virginia's most cultivated and gifted sons, and so write and feel many others who look upon our city from a distance, or examine it within as the above gentleman had done. I believe that the Peabody Institute is, at this moment, doing more to elevate and adorn the character of Baltimore in the eyes of thinking men, more to spread its name abroad in the world, giving it honor and respect where honor and respect are most valuable, than any, nay, than all other institutions within its borders. There was a quiet sarcasm, not without truth, in that witty saying of Dr. Holmes, that Baltimore's chief monument should be crowned with a canvas-back duck; and this Institute is doing its part to redeem the fair fame of our city from reproach, by showing that it possesses other objects of attraction besides the delicacy and abundance of its food. Our name and purposes are known in every civilized country of the globe. We send our reports and publications to all the great libraries and academies, and to most of the learned societies, of Europe; and we receive in return similar publications from them. There is not a European capital in which this Institute is not known. Even as I write a package of books comes in from a learned society in Switzerland, a gift to our library. The extract which I have given above, is but one of many specimens of the same kind which we have received.

Our lectures have called to this city many of the most accomplished scholars and learned men in the country,

who have examined the Institute, especially its library and lecture departments, and have carried away with them a feeling of profound respect for its objects, and a high appreciation of the work which it is doing; and they have spread its fame through every corner of the land. Our library, though the latest founded, is one of the best working libraries for students in the country, because it contains the latest publications in every department of knowledge.

No city can make any pretensions to a literary character without a great library, which shall retain its own scholars at home or call in others from abroad. I happen to know of three persons of high scientific attainments whose abode has been fixed, at least temporarily, among us by this library. An aged professor in a neighboring college told me that it would decide his choice of a future home in our favor. The library is the great central figure in the Institute, absorbing much the largest part of its funds, and much the greatest portion of the attention, thought, and time of its officers; and, should all the other departments fail, this library, if properly conducted, will remain a splendid monument of the munificence of its founder, and an object worthy of the just pride and patriotic attachment of the people.

It is one of the few institutions within our limits, which is even attempting to lift its head above the ordinary and the common, the only one which is helping to win for our city a just renown among cultivated men. Yet there is a class of persons among us, who seldom visit its halls, who have never made themselves acquainted with the objects which it proposes to accomplish, or with the manner in which it is accomplishing these objects, or with the usages and possibilities of such institutions, and who yet feel quite competent to pronounce judgment on all that it does, and have no scruples in calling its rules "absurd," and its managers incapable and wanting in "common sense."

And pray, who are these managers, the men who make these "absurd regulations," and who are so ignorant of all that relates to the proper government of such an institution? One would suppose that they must be obscure adventurers, men quite unknown to the public, who, ignorant of their duties, have private, personal ends of their own to accomplish. Read the list of trustees past and present, and tell me where you will find men more respected in the city, and more interested in its welfare; men of wider views or higher aims in life. Who among us have attained a broader and more generous culture, or have won a higher position among men of letters than some of them? Who have ranked higher in professional service, or have been more confided in and respected than some of them? Who among merchants can show a purer record of personal integrity, who among gentlemen can show a more refined and cultivated taste, who among our citizens can show a more glowing zeal, a more untiring energy, or a more unselfish devotion to public duty than some of these? You will scarcely find a commercial enterprise, a church or charity fund, a trusteeship for hospital or educational purposes, or a society founded to promote science, literature, art, or even social improvement, in which some of these names do not appear. Even Mr. Johns Hopkins, who, in his munificent endowment of a university, has promised to Baltimore the most precious gift which she or the State has ever yet received from any individual or any body of men, could find no better names to enroll among those who are to administer his bounty than several of these. A more disinterested body of men I have never known—men unwilling to derive any personal advantage whatever from their relations to the Institute, and for the time and thought they bestow upon it—men who purchase tickets to its lectures and concerts for their own families rather than abuse the privilege of free admission.

You must remember that all these gentlemen were personally known to Mr. Peabody, and many of them were his intimate friends, with whom he conversed freely, and

to whom he explained his views fully. As Mr. Peabody himself once said, if these gentlemen cannot manage the Institute properly, who can?

These are the men, who, we are modestly requested to believe, have no knowledge of the work which they have undertaken to perform, who have totally misunderstood the views and wishes of Mr. Peabody, and are actually engaged in perverting this noble endowment to purposes utterly unimportant and useless. I write without the inspiration, or the knowledge, of the trustees; but I cannot resist the temptation to make known an important fact. Mr. Peabody, on his last visit to this city, a year and a half ago, after making careful inquiry into the management of the Institute, expressed, in unqualified terms, his approbation of what the trustees had done. I was present at the meeting, and heard his speech reviewing their work, confirming their acts, and expressing his entire satisfaction at the course they had pursued.

VIEWS OF MR. PEABODY.

It is not an agreeable feeling which we experience when we discover deficiences in our dearest friends, nor is it an agreeably duty to feel compelled to note those which we find in our own city. In what I am about to say I but utter the thought of many of our most intelligent people, repeatedly and without reserve expressed to each other, and the thought of our best friends abroad. The genial mildness of the climate, the shortness of the winters, the undulations of the ground, the cheerful aspect of the houses, the delicious and abundant supplies of the markets, and, above all, the social character of her people, give to Baltimore a charm which few cities possess in an equal degree. But her public edifices are few, her hotels are said to be uninviting and dreary, and her places of amusement meagre and unattractive. Very few persons from abroad make this their winter residence, and still fewer return for a second winter. With these wants I have little

to do, though I do not underrate their importance; and I rejoice in the effort now making to relieve them. I turn to a different class of wants which have a vastly greater influence on the reputation of the city abroad, on the respect she will win from mankind in the present and in the future. To multiply physical enjoyments is not all that we need. The attractions of a city must be multiform as well as numerous; and the means which she provides for intellectual improvement will be among the most powerful of these attractions. There are few cities which would not prefer the fame of an Athens to that of an Antioch; and even modern Paris could not maintain her influence in the world, did she not add to her amusements and frivolities the solid advantages of the highest culture in science, literature, and art.

Of all the great cities of the country, Baltimore has made the least effort to provide her people with the means of obtaining a high intellectual culture. She possesses fewer of those institutions of a higher grade, which furnish facilities for advanced study in any of the liberal arts. Her gifted and ambitious sons must pursue their studies under great disadvantages at home, or go to other places which furnish more generously the necessary aids. She has no university or college in which to gather those of her children who have wealth, leisure, and the desire to adorn a high social position with generous culture; or in which to instruct those gifted spirits in a different social class, who burn with zeal for knowledge, with ambition to rise, and with strength to reach the highest intellectual position. She has no gallery or museum of art, and no academy of music in which to instruct her young artists, or by means of which to spread a taste for these refining pursuits among her people. She has no museum of natural history, no chemical or mechanical laboratory, no course of scientific lectures, no collections in antiquities, botany, geology, or mineralogy; not even a collection of the meanest kind, representing the geology and mineral resources of our own State. Her own children must go to Washington or Phila-

delphia for specimens to illustrate the productions and the natural history of her own soil. Lecturers at the Institute have been compelled repeatedly to do this. All her institutions are of the medium, common sort—very respectable primary and high schools, with the usual number of charities. Her Historical Society, her Academy of Sciences, and her Mechanics' Institute, the only institutions that make any pretensions to a higher grade of culture, are all in a languishing condition, all need funds and a better support. I have repeatedly heard intelligent citizens assert that Baltimore has to-day a smaller number of persons within her limits, who are interested in scientific pursuits and historical studies, than she had thirty years ago. Though this may be an over statement, I think there can be no doubt that she has lost ground in comparison with her sister cities. While their means of improvement, and the number of their learned men have vastly increased, Baltimore has remained nearly stationary.

Now, imagine Mr. Peabody in his banking house in London, a city filled with those treasures of learning and art which it has taken centuries to gather, with libraries, and galleries, and museums, and laboratories, and colleges, and all the appliances which genius has devised and wealth provided to strengthen, elevate, and adorn humanity—imagine him looking out upon this city of his adoption, this home of his early manhood, with the earnest desire to do something to relieve its destitution, to aid the growth of a higher culture among its people. Might not the question of what to do, be a puzzling one? So much was needed that any selection he might make would leave something else of equal importance undone. Then, there was the danger of attempting too much, of spreading his bounty over too broad a space, and of thus exciting unreasonable expectations, and inevitable disappointment. The sum he chose to give was large, but it could not possibly supply all the wants of the city.

Guided by others in the choice of objects on which to bestow his bounties, he had his own ideas of the end to be

accomplished, and of the way in which that end was to be reached. These ideas were such as would be likely to commend themselves to a character like his He was a self-made man, and had felt the value of a helping hand in his early struggles with poverty. His sympathies were strongly enlisted on the side of all who, wishing to rise, are making manly efforts to do so. In all his public gifts, he seems to have adopted a maxim very common among self-made men, of helping those, and those only, who are willing to help themselves. He left the indolent and the indifferent to reap the proper fruits of their own conduct. As he had little patience and no sympathy with such, he made no provision for their improvement but by a change in their habits. He bestowed very little in actual charity. He builds comfortable houses in London which are *rented at moderate prices* to the poor. The *industrious* poor man thus acquires a neat, healthful, and convenient home for his family at a very reasonable rate, such a home as he could obtain in no other way. He makes large donations for schools in our Southern States *on condition that the people raise from three to five times* the amount for the same purpose. He does not endow *free schools*, but simply offers to the people a premium for creating such schools for themselves. If one place declines the conditions, his agent is directed, like the Apostles of old, to turn to another more worthy of his bounty ; and the agent finds no difficulty in distributing it on these terms. The $110,000 which he last year bestowed on the South drew from the people fully $550,000 more for the education of its people. He founds an Institute of the highest grade in Baltimore, which he *requires the people to aid in supporting*, if they wish to enjoy its advantages. He distributes premiums in our schools to such pupils as *surpass their fellows in study and deportment.*

And so through all his bounties the same idea is prominent. Nowhere is it alms which he bestows, but reward ; nowhere something for nothing, but everywhere something in exchange for something else. Some return must be made, some effort put forth, by those who are candidates for what

he has to give. He extends aid to him who is struggling to advance; he encourages him who is making manly efforts to improve; he helps him who has climbed to the top of all that lies within his reach to climb still higher. But for the mere idler, who, without expense to himself, would like to while away a careless hour with an equally idle companion in a comfortable reading, lecture, or concert room, he made no provision whatever. I imagine that the world has produced few men who were more intolerant of this class of persons than George Peabody.

Since writing the above, I have seen an intimate friend of Mr. Peabody's who had talked with him freely about his gifts, and had corresponded with him for years on the subject. He confirms all I have said. He says Mr. Peabody never dreamed of founding here what is called a charity institution; and least of all had he any idea of spending his money on mere amusements for the people. *Instruction* was the first, and the central idea of all his gifts. Even his lodging houses are to instruct the poor in the value of comfortable homes, without degrading them by almsgiving. He struck the key note of all his subsequent acts of beneficence in the toast which he sent with his first gift to his native town, Danvers: "*Education, a debt which the present owes to future generations.*"

THE OBJECTS OF THE PEABODY INSTITUTE.

The discontent of the public with the Institute is not accounted for in the superficial criticisms which have been made on the rules which govern its library, its lectures, and its concerts. These rules are such as every well established and successful institution of the kind has adopted, partly for its own security, but mainly to preserve that order, decorum, and quietness, which are essential to those who wish to enjoy its privileges. The only two rules to which any just exception could be taken have been repealed. Single tickets to the lectures have been issued; and, for the purpose of accommodating the public more fully, a box for

the sale of tickets has been opened in the vestibule of the building on the evening of the concerts. But there is undoubtedly a disappointment in the mind of the unthinking public which lies much deeper than this. The first cause of this disappointment, I think, is the situation of the building. People say that it is unfortunately placed. This I admit; but it was placed where it is entirely out of regard to what was believed to be Mr. Peabody's wishes. Were the question an open one, to be decided to-day, I am quite sure a different spot would be selected. But however much we may regret the situation, it is now fixed, and cannot be altered. It is the part of wise men to submit to the inevitable. Every day renders this position more central; and, for the library at least, this error of place, if it be one, cannot seriously impair its usefulness. To the class of readers which such a library will chiefly attract, a few squares of additional walk is of far less importance than the quiet which they find here, and which they could not find in the bustling heart of the city.

The second and chief cause of dissatisfaction in the public mind is, I think, a total misunderstanding of the objects of this endowment. Without examining Mr. Peabody's letters of instruction, the public seem to have decided that this was to be a free, popular institution, which the great masses of the people could use at their pleasure, and without the payment of money. Now, I say it deliberately, and after studying the question in its various bearings, that this was never intended to be a popular institution in the usual acceptation of that word; that is, was never designed, like our public schools, for the personal use of the great body of the people. It is not a charity in any other sense than that in which all college endowments are charities. Like colleges, it cannot draw into its halls the great masses of the people. It cannot furnish that kind of entertainment which will attract or interest them. Its aim is higher and nobler than this, but not so popular. It seeks to instruct, to aid in the culture and development of *the best minds in every social*

rank. It excludes none who comply with its conditions. It seeks, in its peculiar way, to furnish instruction so good that all classes shall desire it, and so cheap that none who have the requisite culture to profit by its privileges shall be excluded from them.

A young man of genius may have an irresistible love of science or literature, and yet be without means. For him this Institute is especially designed. It affords him, in its library and lectures, means of improvement which he could not possibly obtain without its aid. So it is in music, and so in art. It is aimed at the highest and the best. Other forms of charity Mr. Peabody has left to other institutions. The State, through its common schools, gives to all an education sufficient for the ordinary occupations of life—all that Mr. Peabody himself ever had. The poor, we are told, are always to be with us; and, in their common needs, they must be taken care of by those among whom they live. Even common reading, the ordinary books of the day, he leaves for others to provide. He meddles with none of these things. But the child of genius, the young man who has gained all he can from these common means of instruction and is yet ambitious to rise, he takes by the hand, and says: Here are the best books which man has ever written, come and read them; here are subjects discussed by the most accomplished scholars, come and hear them; here is the music which the highest genius of the world has produced, come and listen to it; here are the best productions of art in all ages, come and study them. Such is the mission of this noble endowment, and people complain, and whine, and scold because it is not popular. As well complain of a university that it does not furnish primary instruction; of a gallery of art that it does not contain a drawing school. Can such an institution be popular? Is it in the power of any human agency to make it so? I wot not; for them study would be popular; learning would be popular; and the highest culture would charm and ravish the popular heart. The lecture room of a Tyndall, a

Faraday, or a Lowell would be as crowded as the comic theatre or the circus. In no city of the world is this the case. No thoughtful man can expect it. The people get their advantage from such institutions, and they are immense advantages, by sending their gifted sons and daughters to them, and by the reflex influence which such culture exerts on every community in which it exists. Witness the respect of the Paris mobs for its great art galleries; witness the enthusiasm of the Athenian demos for the adornment of their city in art and architecture. Such indirect elevation of the many through the culture of the few this Institute ought to aid and will aid. But the process will be a slow one, and its managers must bear the abuse that comes from unreasonable expectations, and from that impatience for quick results which is so characteristic of the American people. Many sensible people amongst us have so little experience, and apparently so little confidence, in such institutions, that they would be glad to see it brought within the compass of their own narrow views—would prefer to see it dragged down, from the high position which Mr. Peabody gave it, to the common level of all they see around them. If its founder had not provided it with an endowment large enough to carry it safely through its day of small things, and enable it to outlive its detractors, the prejudice which has been excited against it might have destroyed it altogether. As it is, the Institute is safe, and the abuse heaped upon it only impairs its usefulness to the present generation. An institution intended for all time, it will survive the jealousies, the petty spite, the prejudices, and the disappointments of the hour, from whatever sources they spring: and I firmly believe that it will, at no distant day, become the pride and the glory of Baltimore. To strangers unacquainted with our local prejudices, the present feeling of some of our respectable people is utterly incomprehensible. There is not a city in Christendom which would not to-day be proud to accept this endowment just as it stands, and gladly erect a statue of honor to its founder in gratitude for the gift. Unde-

veloped as it is, the loss of this Institute would create an aching void in the minds of many studious persons, and would be deeply felt by a very large body of our most intelligent people.

MR. PEABODY'S INSTRUCTIONS, AND WHAT THE INSTITUTE IS DOING.

I have said that this Institute, from its very nature, cannot attract the great body of the people to its halls, and, in that sense, it can never be a popular institution. I will now endeavor to show this, point by point, on the authority of Mr. Peabody's letters of instruction to the trustees; and I will add some account of what the Institute is actually doing, in each of its departments, to advance the higher education of the people, which is the true object for which it was founded.

I.—THE LIBRARY.

The library is to be "free." This is popular in the best sense of the word. But it is to be composed of such books as are "not ordinarily attainable in the private libraries of the country," of such books as will "satisfy the researches of students." These books are to be "guarded and preserved from abuse," and are "not to be taken out of the building." It is not to be constructed on the plan of a "circulating library," but it is to be a "library of reference." Mr. Peabody undoubtedly had the British Museum and the Imperial Library of Paris in view when he wrote these instructions, and not the Manchester Free Library or the Boston Public Library. Could any reasonable man expect that a library, which contains none of the popular novels, and very little of the light, racy literature of the day, would attract the great busy masses of the people from their homes to read its ponderous volumes?

The class of books which we do *not* purchase is the one most frequently called for in all popular libraries, as the

following facts will show. Out of 82,000 books taken from the Mercantile Library of San Francisco during 1870, 62,000 were novels; out of 30,000 taken from the Cincinnati Mercantile Library during the same time, 24,000 were classed as fiction; and the proportion of novels called for in all popular libraries does not materially differ from this. I find by the reports that 75 per cent. of all the books used in the following libraries are of this class: Albany Young Men's Association, Brooklyn Mercantile, Philadelphia Mercantile, and New York City Apprentices' libraries; while in the Detroit Public Library the novels amount to 87 per cent. of all the books used. The Boston Public Library often buys a hundred copies of a popular novel, while a single copy of such books as we purchase is usually sufficient for its readers.

Though our library furnishes a very small amount of popular reading, it supplies a much more expensive class of books, and books much more difficult to procure—books of science, literature, history, travels, antiquities, and the mechanic arts. It contains, so far as we know, almost every Greek and Latin book written before the fall of Constantinople in 1453, including a large number of the old chronicles of the middle ages, and a full set of the Latin and Greek Fathers—about 800 authors—in the original tongues, with all the English translations that have been made of them; including also five or six of the best codices of the Old and New Testament—fac-simile copies; and complete sets of the English, French, and American Patent Office Reports. The binding alone of the English reports cost more than $10,000. The reading room, which is accessible to all callers, and in which the books can be taken from the shelves and consulted at pleasure, contains about 2,000 volumes of the best reference books in English, French, and German, including dictionaries of all known languages, encyclopædias, biographical, theological and Bible dictionaries, and dictionaries of almost every science, art, profession, trade, and subject which possesses a dictionary. The library also takes one hundred and thirty

periodicals in the English, French, and German languages, besides the transactions, proceedings, and other irregular serials, of nearly one hundred of the great academies and learned societies of the world. I found, a few weeks since by actual examination, that we have all the books quoted as authorities in Lea's Celibacy of the Clergy and in his Superstition and Force, books of original research and of profound learning. We also have nearly every book quoted in Lecky's History of Rationalism in Europe and in his European Morals, which are among the most learned of recent publications, and show a wide acquaintance with peculiar classes of literature. Of the 30 chronicles enumerated as authorities in Gray's History of the Children's Crusades, we have all but two. I was told, a few days since, by probably the highest authority on the subject in the city, that this library must now be regarded as the second best in America for scientific purposes. Such facts hardly indicate that the library is a failure, as some would have us believe. It is the business of the Institute to collect books, not to create readers. Readers will as certainly find their way to this library, if it is true to itself, as the bird will find its summer home or its winter retreat.

Thus, though our library cannot be called a popular one because it does not contain the light literature which would make it so, and because the books cannot be circulated among the people, is it no advantage to a city to possess such a collection as this, open to every citizen during a greater number of hours in each day than any similar collection of books with which I am acquainted? And we propose, at no distant day, to accommodate the public still further, by keeping the library open continuously from nine in the morning till ten at night—which is four hours in each day more than any similar library in the world is open. Any one having a question to decide, a problem to solve, a subject to investigate, has but to come here and call for them, and all the books on our shelves are at his service. This is an advantage which every person in search of knowledge can appreciate.

The library now contains 44,000 volumes, and its full value will only be known to the public when the new catalogue shall be printed. By that time it will probably have about 50,000 books on its shelves.

Some persons may think it would have been better for the city had the entire fund been devoted to establishing a great reference and circulating library for the whole people. The sufficient reply to all such suggestions is, that Mr. Peabody did not see fit to found such a library, and the trustees must administer the trust as he directed them to do.

II.—THE LECTURES.

Lectures are to be delivered "by the most capable and accomplished scholars and men of science within the power of the trustees to procure." These lectures are to be "directed to instruction in science, art, and literature," such "prices of admission being required as may serve to defray a portion of the necessary expenses." But the great body of the people will not buy tickets at any price to attend such lectures as these. A course of lectures is sometimes given at the Lowell Institute in Boston, where the tickets are given away, to thirty persons; and I have even heard of lectures delivered there to fifteen persons. Voluntarily to leave one's quiet home after the fatigues of the day, to give up ordinary amusements, and to go two evenings in every week to listen to distinguished scholars discoursing on the mysteries of science, literature, and art, presupposes an amount of thought, a love for knowledge, and a previous training, which no populace in the world has ever possessed.

I believe, however, that this department of the Institute is capable of an expansion that will make it more extensively useful to the great body of the people than any of its other departments. By various courses of Class Lectures, such as have been recently established, instruction of a high grade, with costly experiments, can be given in every branch of science and literature, at merely nominal prices; and the people can here acquire such an education in these branches

as can only be obtained elsewhere in the highest institutions of learning. Lectures can be given on literature, ancient and modern, on history, physiology, and ethnology, and on all the sciences, including botany and natural history, the number of courses being multiplied to suit the wants of the people. The only limit to this expansion will be the difficulty of finding in our midst the right kind of lecturers. Had we a college in the neighborhood this difficulty would disappear.

As the aim of the Institute is to elevate and instruct our own people, we seek, as far as possible, to obtain these lecturers at home—usually young men who will be almost as much benefited by delivering the lectures as their pupils are in hearing them. We thus encourage the study of science and literature among our young people, by offering them the best facilities for improvement in these useful branches of knowledge; and we equally encourage our men of literary and scientific tastes in the pursuit of their favorite studies, by offering them some remuneration while thus engaged, and by giving them an opportunity of making themselves known to the public. Two courses of these Class Lectures, each course consisting of forty lectures, were delivered during the past winter. This is the only city in the Union where such instruction can be obtained on such terms.

The lectures of the Institute have been as well attended as such courses usually are in any city of the world. Four or five hundred persons through the season is a good audience for Paris, London, or Boston. I was told by the manager of the Lowell lectures, that the audience which listens to them seldom exceeds, on any one evening, a third of the tickets issued. Occasionally, as here, the hall is crowded, and sometimes the lectures have been repeated the next evening to accommodate the crowds that sought admission. During the present season, we have sold more than 1,100 season, and 1,300 single tickets to our general course. I think it is a credit to the intelligence of Baltimore, that so large an audience should listen with plea-

sure, night after night, to lectures of so high a character in style, thought, and subject as those of Prof. Lowell. The lectures at the Institute have given an immense development to the taste of our people for this mode of instruction, so that, while our audiences have increased, a much larger number of lectures have been delivered in the city during the past season than ever before. We have had at the Institute itself no less than 112 lectures during the winter. An institution that is doing so much work, and doing it well too, can hardly be called "idle" or "useless."

III.—ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The Academy of Music is "to diffuse and cultivate a taste" for music by "providing a capacious and suitably furnished saloon," by "furnishing facilities for the best exhibitions of the art, for studying its principles and practising its compositions," and by "periodical concerts aided by the best talent and eminent skill within their (the trustees') means to procure." It is not to be an "elementary school," but is "to furnish that sort of instruction, under able teachers, in the theory and higher branches of music * * * for which heretofore there has been no provision in your community, and which students have been obliged to seek abroad." "Such charges for admission to its privileges as the trustees may consider proper" are to be made.

A school of music, which teaches none of the elements of the art, which begins with the theory and principles of music, which only gives instruction of so high a grade that it cannot be obtained elsewhere in this country, which furnishes facilities for practising only the best musical compositions, with concerts at which the most eminent skill is to perform and the best compositions to be exhibited, cannot be called a popular school. How large a portion of the people are prepared to profit by such instruction, or are capable of enjoying such concerts? Shoo Fly will undoubtedly draw larger audiences.

The difficulty, if not the impossibility, of literally carrying out these instructions, has led the trustees to establish a school of music of as high a grade as the public would be likely to support. The number of our people going abroad for instruction, and the number seeking the highest grade of instruction at home, is so small, that an establishment designed exclusively for them would have little prospect of success. Besides this the aid derived from their governments renders instruction in the European schools as cheap as we can afford it, while the cost of living abroad is much less; and these schools have an experience and a skill in teaching, and a name in the world of music, which a new school could not possibly possess. All these facts were important, and were seriously considered in establishing a school here. It was thought that a school of instruction could be organized which the public would support, and that, as musical culture and a taste for the compositions of the great masters increased, the grade of instruction in the school, and the requirements for admission to its privileges, could be gradually raised to the standard which Mr. Peabody required. In their anxiety to give the public the full benefit of this department, the trustees have certainly given to the language of Mr. Peabody a most liberal construction in favor of popular education in music. They have even gone so far in this direction as to admit six free pupils from the public schools to the privileges of the Academy.

The trustees had considered all the difficulties mentioned above; but they had not considered another series of difficulties more potent than these, which the establishment of the school has developed. They had not considered the enmity of the teachers of music, and of the teachers of boarding schools in the city, to an establishment which offers, at less than half the price, much greater advantages for a musical education than they can give. They had not sufficiently weighed the personal jealousies of musicians, of the dealers in music, of the dealers in musical instruments, and of the different musical cliques and coteries in the city, each wishing an exclusive

voice in the selection of instruments, of performers, or of the music to be performed. They did not expect the indifference and neglect of our best amateur musicians, whose influence kindly exerted would have been powerful in perfecting the orchestra and the plan of musical instruction. They did not count upon the unfriendly and injurious criticism—to use a mild expression—of some of our papers, which, instead of giving a kindly word of encouragement or of correction when needed, *demanded* of the young institution just starting into life, with an untrained orchestra newly collected, all the precision, all the vigor, and all the delicacy of rendering, which characterize the best trained orchestras, and the oldest institutions of the world. These various causes, none of which ought to have existed because they seriously interfere with the musical culture of the city, have had a depressing and injurious influence on the Academy. Whether it will lead the trustees to suspend all efforts to continue this department as a school of music with a trained orchestra, I am unable to say. Of one thing, however, I feel confident. They cannot devote a larger sum to the support of this department than they have done for the past two years. A just division of the funds at their disposal would not permit it, even if they were so disposed.

Last year the trustees spent on this department, exclusive of rent, care of hall, heat, and light, and in addition to all the income from tuition and concerts, $7,155 69; and the expenses this year will be about the same. Every pupil who pays $50 for a year's instruction costs the Institute $100; and every ticket to the concerts, which is sold for 50 cents, costs the Institute $1 even when the hall is well filled; but this season these tickets have cost the Institute $1.50 each. If the public will support the concerts by attending them, they can be given regularly during the greater part of each year; but, without a proper support from the public, the number must be reduced to suit the funds at the disposal of the trustees. This, I believe, was the view which Mr. Peabody himself took of the case when he was last here.

There are, in this country, but four trained orchestras, which undertake the regular production of the best musical compositions. The Peabody orchestra, though by general consent not the first, can fairly claim an honorable position among these organizations, while its friends award it high praise for the production of classical music. However this may be, we must remember that it is not yet three years old; and I think all musical judges, however much they may differ as to the absolute excellence of its performances, will agree that it has, during its short life, greatly improved in the precision, smoothness, and accuracy of its renderings. No amount of practice can give to instruments of different manufacture or metal that uniformity and smoothness of tone which belong to those of precisely the same make and material, like those used by the Thomas orchestra. The Peabody orchestra is undoubtedly the best orchestra which Baltimore has ever possessed, and, with proper encouragement and kindly criticism from the public, it would gradually perfect its own performances, and greatly aid in the development of the musical taste of the city. But it cannot succeed without the support of the public; and, for want of this support, it may be necessary to dissolve the organization, lose all that has been gained in a practice of three years, and wait till another generation shall better understand its own interests, and shall have more regard for the good name of the city.

The Thomas orchestra charges but 50 cents admission at home, but it derives a part of its support from performances in other cities, where its tickets are high, while it increases its receipts at home in other ways than by fees for admission. The Harvard Musical Association in Boston gives ten concerts each season, for which season tickets are sold at $10 each, and single tickets a $1.50 each. At these prices the Association is able to fill the Music Hall, which seats 3,000 persons; and I was told by one of the directors, who was here a few weeks ago, that they would clear this season from $1,500 to $2,000. This reduction

of tickets from $1.50 to 50 cents measures the advantage in price which this Institute gives to the people of Baltimore over those in Boston who attend such performances; for there is no reason why our orchestra should not in time become as perfect as the one in Boston, and no reason why as many of our people should not in time attend its performances. But it must be remembered that Boston has built a music hall which seats 3,000 persons, and has provided it with an organ which cost $60,000, the largest on this continent and the largest but two in the world; that she supports two schools of music, of which one, according to its catalogue, contains 1,800 pupils, and the other 300, while the number of persons receiving private instruction is immense. This interest in music, and this general musical culture, explain how the Puritan City can furnish an audience of 3,000 persons at the above prices to each of ten Symphony Concerts in one season, while numerous other musical entertainments are going on at the same time.

Had our Academy but half the number of pupils which the Boston schools contain, we should not be able to sell a single ticket to our concerts, as our pupils would fill the entire hall. It must ever be borne in mind that no portion of this Institute is designed to furnish mere amusement to the people. *Education is the one great aim of all its departments.* The concerts are an adjunct of the music school, and are intended to supplement its instructions by artistic exhibitions of the best musical compositions, thus elevating the taste of the pupils, and, in general, the musical taste of the people. To accomplish this last object in the best manner, the orchestra must reside amongst us, must be a part of the trained, musical force of the city, whose presence here, and whose influence outside of the Academy, shall be recognized and felt in the general musical culture of the people. It was supposed that the performers at these concerts—orchestra and solos—would, in time, be drawn almost exclusively from the graduates of the school.

It will thus be seen, that all parts of the system are bound together into a consistent whole. The training in the school is to culminate in the concerts; and the concerts are intended to exhibit the culture of the school, and are to spread that culture among the people. I think all must acknowledge that bringing performers from abroad for occasional concerts would have far less influence on the musical education of the city, than a successful working of the present plan, which seeks to form a body of thoroughly trained musicians at home. Private enterprise can always be relied upon to supply such concerts, and they will become more frequent and will be more fully attended as musical culture is more widely diffused among the people. Theodore Thomas finds no difficulty in filling the 3,000 seats at the Music Hall in Boston, several times during every winter.

IV.—THE GALLERY OF ART.

The Gallery of Art is to be "supplied with the works of the best masters," is "to be rendered instructive to artists in the pursuit of their peculiar studies," is to be so regulated as to "secure, at stated periods, free access to it, by all orderly and respectable persons, who may take an interest in works of this kind;" but it is also to have "periodical exhibitions" which "shall supply a valuable fund for its enlargement." In his Zanesville letter, ten years later, Mr. Peabody says, he did not mean to establish an elementary school of art, but only to furnish such instruction as *artists* usually go abroad to obtain.

The number of artists seeking such instruction as is here described—and he speaks only of artists—must be even smaller than the number of persons desiring the highest education in music. If such a school were opened, it could, from the nature of the instruction to be given there, have but few pupils. Though Mr. Peabody does not say that a charge shall be made for instruction in this school, it is clearly implied in what he does say, and it is well known

that such was his intention. The fund is utterly inadequate to support free schools in art or music.

The necessity of spending a very large sum, at the beginning, on the library—the chief object of the endowment, the great cost of works of art, the want of proper rooms in which to exhibit them, their inability to erect a suitable building without seriously crippling the future operations and usefulness of the Institute, and their desire to consider carefully the precise form which should be given to this department, have hitherto prevented the trustees from putting it into active operation. The Committee on Art has been directed to report a plan of organization, and $5,000 have been appropriated to adorn the interior of the present building. This is all that has been done by the Board.

Thus, it will be seen, that the Institute is an educational institution of a peculiar character, and that it is to be classed, not with places of popular entertainment, but with colleges and the highest schools of learning. Like them, it pre-supposes, in its beneficiaries, a certain amount of preparation, certain peculiar tastes, and certain qualities of mind which are confined to no class in the social scale, but which the majority of persons in all classes do not possess. It is to be regarded as a popular institution in the sense in which they are popular, and in no other sense.

How unreasonable the public expectation has been, and how impossible it would be for the trustees to meet the demands made upon them, can be shown by a few facts worthy of consideration. The public expect a free circulating and reference library, such as Boston pays $70,000 a year to support. Dr. Rush has lately given $1,000,000 to establish a library in Philadelphia, and it is understood that Mr. Lenox has given the same amount, together with his own large collection of costly books, said to be worth at least $200,000, to found a library in New York. Both of these gentlemen, as scholars, knew the wants of such libraries, and their gifts may be regarded as their estimate of the funds required to meet these wants. The Astor

Library, without an additional endowment from the Astor family, will be a failure for want of funds with which to purchase new books. The same public requires courses of lectures, such as Mr Lowell established in Boston with an endowment of $250,000, or an annual expenditure of $15,000. It expects the Institute to have an orchestra as perfect in its performances as that of Theodore Thomas, which meets every day in the year, and which could not be maintained for less than $20,000 a year in addition to all its receipts from the sale of tickets. It then demands as director the best artist and leader in Europe, who could not be procured on any terms; but no such person as is desired could be expected to come here under $5,000 a year. This same public expects the trustees to establish a gallery of art of the first order. Mr. Corcoran has recently endowed such an institution in Washington, giving it his own large collection of paintings and $1,000,000 in money, and promising it $300,000 more. These sums represent his estimates of its requirements, which can not be less than $60,000 a year. Thus $170,000 a year would be required to support this Institute on a scale to meet the demands of the public. In addition to this annual expenditure, there must be an immediate outlay of not less than $200,000 for a proper music hall and organ, and $200,000 more for the grounds and buildings required for a gallery of art. Now, the entire income which the trustees had at their disposal, to meet all these demands, was last year $45,000.

I have no comments to make on these facts and figures, except to add, that, if free instruction in music were also to be given, not less than $60,000 of additional annual income would be required to provide for this most expensive of all the branches of education.

I have thus finished what I had to say about the purposes and the management of this Institute, and the misconceptions of the public regarding it. I have faith to believe that it will yet be one of the most powerful of those influences which are to raise the character of our city in

literature and art, and which are to make it a desirable residence for cultivated men. Hitherto it has offered no attractions to this class of persons; and it is consequently poor in every attribute of culture. It cannot draw into it such persons from abroad; it cannot even retain its own gifted sons at home. The Johns Hopkins University will undoubtedly give a powerful impulse to learning, and promises to Baltimore a future of higher culture than she has hitherto possessed. I hope that some wealthy citizen, actuated by a desire to benefit his fellow-men, and to erect a permanent monument to his own enterprise in acquiring wealth, and to his intelligence in using it, will build and endow a Museum of Natural History—the next pressing want of this city in the direction of culture. Then, with a deepened channel to the harbor, with the completion of rail road and steamboat lines, with an awakened spirit of public enterprise, and above all, with these vastly improved means for attaining the highest culture, Baltimore will offer new attractions as a place of residence, will give an additional charm to her society, and will throw over all classes of her citizens a portion of that refining influence which culture alone can give. Then our Calverts will not need to retire to Newport for books and congenial society; our Hyatts will be able to find a proper field for their activity nearer than Salem; our Mayers may possibly be retained to adorn our own higher institutions of learning; and our McLeods will not be compelled to seek distant Cambridge for sympathy and support. Or if men like these leave us, others of equal culture from abroad will come to fill their places; for scienc , art, and literature are cosmopolitan, and ask no questions of birth-place or station. And then, perhaps, we shall reach that millenium of knowledge, when all our intelligent citizens will learn to appreciate the enlarged views of Mr. Peabody in so generously founding an educational institution of the highest grade, for the benefit of their gifted sons and daughters.

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